

Submission on the Proposed Canterbury Air Regional Plan

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Form 5: Submissions on a Publicly Notified Proposed Policy Statement or Regional Plan under Clause 6 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991

Return your signed submission by 5.00pm, Friday 1 May 2015 to:

Freepost 1201
Proposed Canterbury Air Regional Plan.
Environment Canterbury
P O Box 345
Christchurch 8140

A

Full Name: KARL WAYNE STOWELL

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Organisation*:

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* the organisation that this submission is made on behalf of

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Contact name and postal address for service of person making submission (if different from above):

Trade Competition

Pursuant to Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991, a person who could gain an advantage in trade competition through the submission may make a submission only if directly affected by an effect of the proposed policy statement or plan that:

- a) adversely affects the environment; and
- b) does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition.

Please tick the sentence that applies to you:

- ☒ I could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission; or
- ☐ I could gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission. **If you have ticked this box please select one of the following:**

- ☐ I am directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission
- ☐ I am not directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission

Signature: [Signature]

Date: 16/4/15

(Signature of person making submission or person authorised to sign on behalf of person making the submission)

Please note:

(1) all information contained in a submission under the Resource Management Act 1991, including names and addresses for service, becomes public information.

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- ☒ I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission; or
- ☐ I do wish to be heard in support of my submission; and if so,
- ☐ I would be prepared to consider presenting your submission in a joint case with others making a similar submission at any hearing

See Attached



C(1) The specific provisions of the proposal that my submission relates to are:

7.75 Space Heating

7.76 Clean Air Zone.

(2) My submission is that :

I support all other sections of the Canterbury Air Regional Plan except the section 7.75 and 7.76 as detailed below.

I oppose the changes being made under section 7.75 and 7.76 of the Canterbury Air Regional Plan. I oppose it on the basis the changes to Space Heating and the Clean Air Zone, are not just changes to the heating hardware we are able have in our community but the very health of our community. Ecan are increasing costs to low income families and the children and our high numbers of elderly. Ecan's actions will create a social cost too. Impact on our doctors, Timaru Hospital, Winz and Needs Assessment teams and our community groups.

South Canterbury has more elderly than any other region in the country and in Waimate a large number live in town and have older log burners. These elderly folk have set fires for decades, some half a century. They have cut and stacked tonnes of wood in their lifetime, they have warmed their children, cooked their meals, heated water for baths and their washing and hung out their washing in the back yard and sent their kids out to play, all while the fires are going. Do you think they cannot build a fire that does not cover their washing in smoke or ash or have children coughing and spluttering outside. They do not use dryers, they hang their washing in their back yard and they know how to build and stoke a fire without black smoke! They cannot afford and do not need or want a new log burner to do what they have done for half their lives.

They understand the necessity to store their wood till dry, how to start a fire and how to create white easily dispersed smoke without black smoke. And they have taught their grown children these skills too!

What of the young families renting? Their landlord will be required to change the existing fires (houses with log burners are very sought after in this area, speak to the real estate agents) and landlords will go with the cheapest option for them which is a heat pump. When the young poor families will have to choose between their power bill and food on the table for their kids. Which do you think will go first?

A number of factors effect respiratory problems other than air pollution from fires. Pollens cause a huge problem over summer, will the next step be for Ecan to tell us what trees can be in a residential area and then have them removed, will silver birches be outlawed next? Where does it end? One of the most common causes of respirator problems are damp and cold houses, not a few days of lingering smoke from fires!

The initial cost for replacement of old fires is high and out of the reach of many people, young and old! The long reaching social costs of this change include a need for extra support through Winz for the families who cannot afford a power bill of \$250 just for heating (16hrs/day @ 52c per hour) per month. Or \$345 of pellets (16 hrs/day @ 72c per hour – 480kilos of pellets!) But I am sure that no elderly person will go to Winz if they cannot afford their power bill or to change their fire to a compliant one. They will sit in their beds, with hotties and freezing in their cold damp houses and become sicker, then the ambulances, the DHB and the local doctors will have to pick up the pieces. Need assessment teams already have a 6 week waiting list for patients, how long will it be in the winter of 2016? With fires sitting cold and unused because of policy makers with heatpumps and plenty of money for power bills. Salvation Army and a number of local groups and churches donate firewood to the elderly who need it. But cash of the above amounts will not be viable.

Many people are unaware of this change to Ecan guidelines, so when it comes into place will Ecan just fine the people using their fires in the winter of 2016, and ban them from using their fire? Will the waiting list for installations (if they can afford it) mean it will be summer before installations? Has this been considered?

For the money spent in advertising these changes and preparing the documents and public meetings, I suggest Ecan could have employed a person to monitor exactly where there are problems and educate and motivate individual people to burn a clean fire with dry wood, instead of a generic change.

Wood in this area is not always paid for. All summer property owners advertise and offer fallen trees for free to anyone prepared to cut and collect them. There are fundraisers by our local fire department and schools, childcare and churches involving firewood. This keeps our much needed organisations funded. With everyone forced to change to heat pumps where does it leave these groups? I do not think the power companies will offer any credits for our local raffles.

I quote to you the Butterfly Effect, A butterfly that flaps its wings in one part of the world might ultimately cause a hurricane in another part of the world. This is what you are doing here in Waimate, the long reaching and damaging effects will be felt hard by our most vulnerable.

(3) I seek the following decisions from Environment Canterbury:

I ask Ecan to employ someone local and based in Waimate to make changes to heating hardware only on a case by case basis where needed. This instead of the generic, expensive and socially irresponsible change detailed in this Canterbury Air Regional Plan under section 7.75 and 7.76.